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FORM NO. 51-44A
FEB 1952

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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INFORMATION REPORT
REFERENCE COPY

REPORT

COUNTRY Finland/USSR

DO NOT CIRCULATE DATE DISTR. 9 January 1953

SUBJECT Soviet Activity in the Porkkala Area

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE OF
INFO.NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)PLACE
ACQUIREDSUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. Soviet activity in the Porkkala area lessened appreciably during October and it appears that the usual autumn slump had commenced. Compared with previous years, however, there is livelier artillery firing this autumn; this, however, is but a normal manifestation in view of the considerable progress which was undoubtedly accomplished along fortification lines during the busy summer just past. It appears that rather heavy stationary batteries have been completed in the central portion of the area, and battery firing occurs with more than usual frequency.
2. Movement of troops, as described below, supports the supposition that at least one infantry division is permanently based in the area, in addition to a border guard regiment and fort personnel: On 6, 8, 10 and 12 October, eleven passenger coaches full of infantrymen departed daily from Porkkala. Since a coach of the type used seats about 100 persons, there is good reason to believe that about 4000 men were thus transported. It is quite likely that these men belonged to an older age-group which was being demobilized; as is known, three age-groups are in service at the same time in the Soviet Union, and it appears likely that in Porkkala there may well be three times this number at one time, or approximately one infantry division, at the very least.
3. In view of the foregoing, special attention should be directed to the fact that during the past summer troops were transported to Porkkala by sea. Indeed, on numerous occasions the Soviets were observed to bring in and take out heavy equipment by water. The removal of troops by land, therefore, does not necessarily mean a decrease in the number of troops in the area, since a corresponding number presumably arrived by sea as replacements.
4. It is almost a certainty that approximately a regiment of border guard troops is in the area. Colonel (fnu) Pyatachkevich, the regimental commander, is

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quartered in Bbleby, as is his assistant, Lt. Col. (fnu) Tsirkovskiy. One battalion has its headquarters at Degerby.

5. In August, from all indications, an age group then in training participated in coordinated battle maneuvers; the fact that maneuvers of a similar nature have not occurred nearly as frequently since August-September tends to confirm this. The troop movements observed in October (see para 2 above) may well have been preliminary demobilization preparations for the age-group referred to above.
6. Sea traffic appears to be decreasing.
7. Railroad traffic is about normal, the traffic in October being almost the same as it was the previous year. Worthy of attention is the fact that sixteen oil tankers entered the area in October; the usual number has varied between four to eight per month; there were 471 closed freight cars and 70 open coaches observed entering Porkkala during October.

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9. Highway traffic has been quite slow, but Soviet diplomatic personnel from Helsinki come to Porkkala in increasing numbers to receive medical attention and hospital care. From Viipuri to Porkkala, across East Finland, only four round-trip automobile journeys have been observed.

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